

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATING TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
SESSION INITIATION AND CALLING CARD FOR USE THEREWITH**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method for automating the initiation of a telecommunications session and a calling card to use with the system or the method. In one embodiment, an automated telephony interface system includes a scanner and a session initiator which is coupled to the scanner. The initiator extracts a telephone number from information read by the scanner and transmits a signal containing the telephone number to a telecommunications device in order to initiate a telecommunications session.